

For those days when you have an extra chunk of time you weren't expecting...

Or you get sick while you're at school and just can't pull off a lesson...

Don't despair! Pop in a video and do:

# SIX COOL FACTS!

As teachers, we are obligated to make the most of every minute. But, sometimes the unexpected happens: You lose your voice, or the assembly is cancelled, or the science experiment didn't work. My cooperating teacher uses Six Cool Facts to make a video into an engaging, accountable experience.

## What you need:

Lined paper for each student

Sharpened pencil

An engaging, educational video (such as Planet Earth, Nova Science Now, Wild Kratts, etc.--stash a few in a drawer or check out the list below of videos on the web)

## Here are the steps:

1. Students write their name, date and title of the video on top of the paper.
2. Students record six cool facts from the video.
3. Stop the video at the 1/3 point and have students share two of their facts. This will remind students to keep writing, and will prevent students from writing all six facts at the beginning and then checking out.
4. Stop again at the 2/3 mark if student attention is starting to wander. Otherwise, have students share at the end of the video and discuss.
5. Collect the papers at the end and record them as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. (We had a clipboard for each subject where we quickly recorded a check, plus or minus for assignments like this.)
6. If you are feeling better the next day, you can use the Six Cool Facts paper to launch the next lesson.

## Some great videos:

Lost and (Puget) Sound : (About our local watershed)

[http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/Services/Drainage\\_&\\_Sewer/Keep\\_Water\\_Safe\\_&\\_Clean/RestoreOurWaters/index.htm](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/Services/Drainage_&_Sewer/Keep_Water_Safe_&_Clean/RestoreOurWaters/index.htm)

Green Machine: (About unique qualities of Puget Sound):

<http://www.marinescienceafloat.org/marine-afloat-program/the-green-machine>

Wild Kratts: (About animals)

<http://pbskids.org/wildkratts/videos/>

Islandwood: (Social studies and environmental science:

[http://islandwood.org/school\\_programs/media/classroomfilms](http://islandwood.org/school_programs/media/classroomfilms)

HILARIOUS video about a very boring science topic:

[http://media.wr.usgs.gov/movies/index.html?id=debris\\_flow\\_dynamics](http://media.wr.usgs.gov/movies/index.html?id=debris_flow_dynamics)

StudyJams: (Videos on a variety of topics):

<http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/index.htm>